CITE THE OMISSION OF MURDER ISSUE

JUN 11 1975

Say They Welcome Chance to Provide Answers on Intelligence Apparatus

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 10—President Ford's Democratic opposition accused him today of avoiding the essential questions raised in the Administrations' investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Several Democrats said they saw a short-term shrewdness in the President's decision to break off the Rockefeller commission's inquiry into allegations that the agency planned the assassinations of foreign leaders. But they also professed to welcome the responsibility that Mr. Ford handed Democrats in Congress to dig deeper and to tell the public more about the secret workings of the nation's intelligence apparatus.

"He took a powder on it, he ducked it," said Senator Henry M. Jackson of Washington, a Democratic candidate for President, who said he felt that Mr. Ford should have reported evidence and rendered judgment on the assassination question.

"The buck will stop with the Senate committee," said Senator Frank Church of Idaho. Chairman of a select panel looking broadly into official intelligence, Mr. Church, still thought to be contemplating a Presidential race himself next year, cited what he saw as a contrast with a President Mr. Ford admires, the late Harry Truman, who had a sign on his desk declaring, "The buck stops here."

Representative Morris K. Udall of Arizona, another Democratic candidate for the Presidency, said he considered Mr. Ford's approach "clever." But he added:

"The Democrats ought to handle this as we did Watergate: Hold the hearings, get the facts out, make some legislative changes. I don't think we can run away from it. He's laid it at our doorstep. Let's show him how responsible we can be."

Adam Walinsky, who worked as an aide to the late Robert F. Kennedy, reiterated his belief that President Ford and the Rockefeller commission were manipulating assassination rumors to cast suspicion on the dead Kennedy brothers—President Kennedy and his Attorney General, who oversaw certain intelligence operations.

'Saving' the C.I.A.

Vic ePresident Rockefeller and the commission he headed "saw an opportunity to sav the C.I.A. and to score some political points," Mr. Walinsky said in a telephone interview. "Rather than call witnesses and complete a report" on the assassination question, he continued, "they started leaking the stuff and then left it hanging." He added, "Maybe all they wanted to do was to divert responsibility from the C.I.A., but in that they've been completely successful so far."

"It's just a continuation of their anti-Kennedy politics," Mr. Walinsky asserted, recalling the 1971 efforts by E. Howard Hunt, one of the convicted Watergate conspirators, to use forged diplomatic cables to implicate President Kennedy in the assassination of President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam.

Then and now, he added, the mainspring of the White House's political planning has been the fear that Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts will be the next Democratic nominee for President.

Senator Kennedy, who earlier said it was inconceivable to him that his brothers planned official murder, had no comment on the Rockefeller commission report today.

President Ford, at his news conference last night, said that indications of wrongdoing at the C.I.A. dated back to the Eisenhower Administration. But, he said, politicians would better leave it to historians to weigh the responsibility of past Presidents for abuses in the C.I.A.

He said that he and Congress "ought to reserve judgment," and he specifically cautioned House and Senate investigators to use "utmost prudence" in their treatment of the assassination inquiry.

Democratic leaders in Congress, however, were outwardly determined not to shrink from hh the evidence, even if the trail were to lead back to Democratic Presidents.

Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, the Democratic leader, said, "It looks to me like he has tossed the ball from his court to our court. But I don't care as long as it's all laid out—all of it."

President Ford may have done "the shrewd political thing," said Senator Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota, a Democrat on the Church committee in the Senate. "But I'm prepared to accept that responsibility. That's what Congressional investigating committees are for. I just hope the next time they set up one of these patsy executive commissions they will admit it's not independent at all."